

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (CANCELLED)
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The actuator assembly as recited in claim ~~16~~ wherein said actuator is operably connected to said energy storing member by at least a portion of the transmission path.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The actuator assembly as recited in claim ~~16~~ wherein said actuator assembly further comprises a retaining arrangement to releasably retain said actuator assembly in said rest condition.
4. (ORIGINAL) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 3 wherein said retaining arrangement is partially provided by friction associated with at least one of said actuator, said transmission path and said output member.
5. (ORIGINAL) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 3 wherein said retaining arrangement is provided by a detent arrangement.
6. (ORIGINAL) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 5 wherein said detent arrangement acts upon said output member.
7. (ORIGINAL) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 6 wherein said detent arrangement acts substantially perpendicularly to a direction of movement of said output member.
15. (CANCELLED)

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An actuator assembly comprising:
an actuator drivingly connected by a transmission path to an output member, said
actuator being operable to apply a force in a first direction to drive said output member in
the first direction from a rest condition to an actuated condition, and also being operable
to apply a force in a second direction to drive said output member in the second direction
from said actuated condition to said rest condition; and
an energy storing member, in which movement of said output member by said
actuator in said first direction is assisted by said energy storing member and movement of
said output member by said actuator in said second direction stores energy in said energy
storing member.~~The actuator assembly as recited in claim 1,~~
_____ wherein said first and second directions of movement of said output member are rotational.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The actuator assembly as recited in claim
~~16~~ wherein said energy storage member acts on said output member.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The actuator assembly as recited in claim
~~16~~ wherein said energy storage member is a resilient member.

19. (ORIGINAL) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 18 wherein said
resilient member is a spring.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The actuator assembly as recited in claim
~~16~~ wherein said actuator assembly further comprises a housing which at least partially
contains said actuator, said transmission path and said output member.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of operating an actuator assembly having an actuator, an output member, and an energy storing member, comprising:

driving the actuator to apply a force in a first direction to drive the output member in ~~the~~ a first rotational direction from a rest condition to an actuated condition;

applying a stored energy force from the energy storing member in the first direction to assist the actuator in driving the output member in the first rotational direction;

driving the actuator to apply a force in a second direction to drive the output member in ~~the~~ a second rotational direction from the actuated condition to the rest condition; and

storing energy in the energy storing member when the actuator applies the force in the second direction.